

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00272 132014 Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 COA-02 INT-08 IO-12 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 GAC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 NEA-10 RSR-01 /196 W  
----- 043161

R 131850 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3465

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS 194

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0272

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IC SW

SUBJECT: PALME PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: REYKJAVIK 259

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PALME HELD PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 10 DURING WHICH HE WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON GOI DEFENSE POLICY, VIETNAM, EEC, AND FISHING LIMITS EXTENSION. END SUMMARY.

2. REYKJAVIK PRESS MARCH 13 REPORTED PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY VISITING SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME MARCH 10. PALME EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WESTMANN ISLANDERS FIGHTING THE ELEMENTS WOULD ACHIEVE A VICTORY. REGARDING VISIT HE REITERATED THAT  
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HE HAD BEEN INVITED BY ICELANDIC SDP CHAIRMAN GYLFI GISLASON " TIME AND AGAIN" AND THAT HE WAS FINALLY ABLE TO ACCEPT. COMMENT-ING ON IMPENDING SWEDISH ELECTION, HE SAID THAT OPPOSITION IS GAINING BUT THAT " SO WILL THE GOVT AND THE RESULT SHOULD BE A LIVELY ELECTION".

3. QUESTIONED ABOUT GOI POLICY DECISION TO HAVE US- MANNED ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE ( IDF) LEAVE COUNTRY, PALME SAID GOS CONSIDERS IT NATURAL THAT EACH NORDIC COUNTRY SEEK A SECURITY POLICY WHICH IS MOST SUITABLE. GOS DOES NOT INTERFERE IN THIS NOR DOES IT ISSUE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON OTHER PEOPLES DEFENSES.

4. PALME SAID THAT WORLD PUBLIC OPINION HAD RESULTED IN EARLIER PEACE IN VIETNAM THAN OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE. SWEDEN HAD BEEN AMONG COUNTRIES CRITICIZING US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT WHICH HAD RESULTED IN " DIPLOMATIC TIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES COOLING", BUT THIS WAS NOT AT SWEDEN' S REQUEST. SWEDISH AID TO NORTH VIETNAM WAS PROVIDED OUT OF HUMANITARIAN MOTIVES AND WOULD BE CONTINUED ACCORDING TO PLAN. SOUTH VIETNAM WOULD ALSO RECEIVE AID TO REBUILD.

5. PALME SAID THAT EEC HAD IN A WAY CAUSED A RIFT IN NORDIC COOPERATION. NORDIC COUNTRIES HAD DIFFERENT INTERESTS AT STAKE TO PROTECT, SO THAT RIFT COULD PERHAPS BE CONSIDERED NATURAL. THERE IS NO REASON WHY NORDIC COUNCIL SHOULD NOT FOSTER COOPERATION ON THIS ISSUE, SINCE SUCH WAS DESIRABLE.

6. REGARDING ICELAND' S UNILATERAL EXTENSION OF ITS FISHING LIMITS TO 50 MILES, PALME INDICATED THAT IN SWEDEN THERE WAS COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF ICELAND' S SPECIAL STATUS AND THE NECESSITY TO PROTECT ITS NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SEA. FISHING LIMITS QUESTION IN GENERAL ALSO CONCERNED SWEDEN BECAUSE OF FISHERIES IN NORTH SEA AND BALTIC. ON THE OTHER HAND GOS WILL TAKE NO DIRECT STAND UNTIL AFTER UN LOS CONFERENCE, WHERE SUCH MATTERS WILL BE DEALT WITH IN DETAIL, INCLUDING SPECIAL RIGHTS OF COASTAL STATES. IRVING

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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**To:** CINCLANT  
COMICEDEFOR  
COPENHAGEN  
EUR  
HELSINKI  
NATO  
OSLO

SECSTATE WASHDC  
STOCKHOLM

**Type:** TE

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